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Bethesda House Sold by Rebozo

By Donnie Radcliffe

The Bethesda house purchased by President Nixon's good friend Charles G. "Bebe" Rebozo in February, 1973, and rented since then by Julie and David Eisenhower, has been sold for an undisclosed price.

The White House announced yesterday that the Eisenhowers will move "early in June" to a $409-a-month, two-bedroom duplex apartment at Columbia Plaza, on Virginia Avenue near the Watergate.

Helen McCain Smith, press secretary to first Lady Pat Nixon, said the Rebozo house, which he bought for $127,000 last year, had been purchased by a Washington financial investment counselor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Zirkin.

Mrs. Zirkin is the daughter of the late Rabbi Norman Eerstenfeld.

Mrs. Smith said Rebozo "will reimburse the government" for all improvements made by the Secret Service on the Bethesda property.

Marcia Clopton of CBS Realty, which handled the sale, said Rebozo called her "within the week" instructing her to sell the house and she sold it to the first people who saw it.

She declined to disclose the sale price, but other sources estimate that homes in the area around Burning Tree Country Club have appreciated 20 per cent or more in 1½ years and that the purchase price could start at $150,000 and go higher.

Mrs. Smith said the Eisenhowers put their name on a waiting list three months ago for the Foggy Bottom apartment opposite the Kennedy Center and the Watergate apartments.

"There was no time to enjoy the (Rebozo) house or keep it up," Mrs. Smith said.

She said Mrs. Eisenhower wanted to be nearer National airport, from which she commutes two or three times a week to her job on the editorial board of Curtis Publishing Co. in Indianapolis.

Eisenhower wanted to be near George Washington University Law School where he is completing his first year and will attend summer school, according to Mrs. Smith.

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are expected to be set up in a nearby apartment, either across the hall or next door to that of the Eisenhowers', Mrs. Smith said.

The Eisenhowers never disclosed the amount of rent they paid Rebozo because, as Mrs. Smith said yesterday, it was something "between friends."

The Rebozo house was one of several under question by the House Government Activities subcommittee, which began looking into improvements on President Nixon's homes and those of his friends last summer.